

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

November 25, 2003

On November 12, 2003 I attended a meeting with the victims of the Padua Fire. Forty-two homes in Palmer Canyon were destroyed as a result of the fire, but thankfully, no human life was lost. As the Palmer Canyon residents begin the rebuilding process, it provides the County an opportunity to evaluate the situation and make improvements with the goal of reducing the impact of future disasters in the Palmer Canyon area as well as throughout the County. This evaluation should include the use of volunteers as a resource for communicating with the public. There are many citizen groups that use HAM radios which can be an effective mode of communication during an emergency. The County should utilize this valuable tool as a mechanism of informing the impacted areas about the nature of the emergency as well as about any evacuation plans. I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THIS BOARD DIRECT the Office of Emergency Management and the Fire Chief to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

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Department to explore the possibility of utilizing HAM radio operators to assist in the evacuation process and with other functions during an emergency and to organize volunteer HAM radio operators who can fulfill this function so that they can be called upon in the event of a disaster. This report is due in 30 days.

MDA:jp